



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"Enriching Lives"*

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IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **T-3**

January 22, 2004

**REVISED**

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2456

Dear Supervisors:

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED APPLICATION  
OF SECTION 21455.6 OF THE CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE  
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
AUTOMATED RED LIGHT PHOTO ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM  
ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS  
3 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD AFTER THE PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. Find that the proposed expansion of the Automated Red Light Photo Enforcement Program is categorically exempt under Class 1-(x)7 of the Environmental Guidelines approved by your Board.
2. Approve the use of a photo red light enforcement program at six additional signalized intersections identified by Public Works.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

On March 23, 1999, your Board conducted a public hearing for implementation of automated photo red light enforcement systems at the following five unincorporated area intersections:

Supervisory District	Area	Intersection
1	Rowland Heights	Colima Rd. at Batson Ave.
1	East Los Angeles	Whittier Blvd. at Atlantic Blvd.
3	Los Angeles	Wilshire Blvd. at Sepulveda Blvd.
4	Hacienda Heights	Hacienda Blvd. at La Monde St.
5	Glendora	Arrow Hwy. at Glendora Ave.

Accidents caused by red-light running are among the most severe, often resulting in significant injury or fatality. The purpose of red light photo enforcement is to increase traffic safety by reducing these types of accidents, as well as reducing the number of red-light running incidents.

On May 31, 2003, our analysis of the accident rates for the five program intersections showed a 38 percent reduction in the number of right-angle-type accidents that are commonly related to red-light running. The reduction in accidents further translates to an overall improvement in intersection safety and benefit when considering the health and cost savings to motorists, alleviation in emergency response efforts, and reduction in intersection delays.

We have also observed a reduction in the number of citations issued at the program intersections of nearly 2,000 citations per year since the program's inception. This is consistent with our expectations, since motorists will tend to adjust their driving habits as a result of the visible presence of traffic regulation enforcement. As can be seen, this aspect of photo enforcement is significant, in that its presence reduces the overall potential of accidents caused by red light violations.

Continuation and expansion of the program period will enable us to utilize automated red light photo enforcement at nine intersections, including six additional intersections. The proposed intersections, and recommended continued use of photo enforcement, are as follows:

Supervisory District	Proposed or Continued Use	Area	Intersection
1	Proposed	La Puente	Amar Rd. at California Ave.
1	Proposed	East Los Angeles	1st St. at Eastern Ave.
1	Proposed	Whittier	Carmenita Rd. at Leffingwell Rd.
1	Continued Use	Rowland Heights	Colima Rd. at Batson Ave.
1	Continued Use	East Los Angeles	Whittier Blvd. at Atlantic Blvd.

Supervisory District	Proposed or Continued Use	Area	Intersection
2	Proposed	El Segundo	La Cienega Blvd. at 120th St.
3	Continued Use	Los Angeles	Wilshire Blvd. at Sepulveda Blvd.
4	Proposed	East Whittier	Telegraph Rd. at Colima Rd.
5	Proposed	Glendora	Hollenbeck Ave. at Cypress St.

We are proposing to continue the use of “wet-film” technology at eight of the nine locations selected for photo enforcement; with one proposed pilot digital camera location at the intersection of La Cienega Boulevard at 120th Street. Our use of “wet-film” technology is due to its wide acceptance by both the judicial system and law enforcement. Further, digital technology has yet to undergo the extensive testing and scrutiny that “wet-film” technology has experienced.

Nonetheless, as digital technology continues to advance and its use continues to increase, we believe that employing the use of digital cameras at one location will provide us with the opportunity to explore this aspect of Automated Photo Enforcement while monitoring its acceptance in the courts.

The enforcement of moving traffic violations under the California Vehicle Code in the unincorporated areas is performed by the California Highway Patrol (CHP). They support the use of automated red light photo enforcement and indicated their willingness to continue their participation in this program and provide the appropriate enforcement.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

This action is consistent with the County Strategic Plan Goals of Service Excellence and Organizational Effectiveness, as continuation of the program will enhance highway safety through a reduction in the frequency of red-light-running accidents and enhance service delivery through effective use of a private vendor.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

There is no financial impact of your Board making a finding, after the public hearing, on the use of the automated red light photo enforcement program. We will subsequently return to your Board with our recommendation regarding the financing of the program at each of the proposed and existing locations prior to its implementation. Revenues collected by the County from the citations issued for the locations will be used to offset the cost of the program.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

California Vehicle Code Section 21455.5 allows the use of an automated enforcement system at signalized intersections. The automated system's presence must be identified by signs clearly indicating its presence. The automated system is located at intersections that meet the criteria specified in Section 21455.7.

California Vehicle Code Section 21455.6 requires your Board to conduct a public hearing prior to entering into a contract to implement the program. A notice of public hearing shall be published pursuant to Government Code 6062a. Prior to utilizing a photo red light enforcement system at the additional six intersections, CHP is required to issue warning notices to violators of the red light for 30 days. The County is also required to make a public announcement of the photo red light enforcement system at least 30 days prior to the start of the program at the additional intersections.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

Implementation of automated traffic signal automated enforcement systems, including the notification of the motoring public, is categorically exempt under Class I(x)7 of the Environmental Guidelines approved by your Board.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

On March 13, 2003, Public Works issued a request for proposal to select from the list of qualified vendors to provide photo red light enforcement services. Prior to deployment of a photo red light enforcement system at the nine new intersections, we will return to your Board with our final recommendation for a vendor.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

The continued implementation and management of the automated red light photo enforcement program will not result in the displacement of any County employees, nor will it impact current services.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
January 22, 2004  
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**CONCLUSION**

At such time as these recommendations are approved, please return one approved copy of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. NOYES  
Director of Public Works

GS:ja

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cc: Auditor-Controller  
Chief Administrative Office  
County Counsel

INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR PUBLISHING  
LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

TO: Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board  
Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles

FROM: Department of Public Works  
Traffic and Lighting Division

**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
**AUTOMATED RED LIGHT PHOTO ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM**

Section No. 21455.5 of the California Vehicle Code allows counties, in cooperation with the California Highway Patrol, to implement the program for the installation of special photo equipment at selected intersections to facilitate the enforcement of violations against motorists running red lights. Section 21455.6 of the California Vehicle Code requires that a public hearing be held prior to approval of such a program in the County. The Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors shall give notice of the public hearing pursuant to Government Code 6062a. Attached is a notice of the public hearing to be published twice in newspapers, five days apart, at least ten days prior to the February 24, 2004, public hearing.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Guita Sheik of Public Works, Traffic and Lighting Division, at (626) 300-4712.

GS:ja

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Attach.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
ON PROPOSED USE OF  
AUTOMATED RED LIGHT PHOTO ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM  
IN THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on the use of automated red light photo enforcement by the Board of Supervisors on the 24th day of February 2004, at the hour of 9:30 a.m., in the Hearing Room of the Board of Supervisors, Room 381B, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any and all persons having objections to the proposed use of automated red light photo enforcement at selected intersections in the County of Los Angeles may appear before the Board of Supervisors and show cause why said use should not be made.

Section 21455.5 of the California Vehicle Code allows counties, in cooperation with the California Highway Patrol, to implement the program for the installation of special photo equipment at selected intersections to facilitate the enforcement of violations against motorists running red lights. Section 21455.6 of the California Vehicle Code requires that a public hearing be held prior to approval of such a Program in the County.

Public Works has proposed implementation of an automated red light photo enforcement program at six additional intersections in the County of Los Angeles.

The Board of Supervisors may take action on the implementation of an automated system at the conclusion of the public hearing.

If you have any question concerning this hearing, please call the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works at (626) 300-4708.

Si no entiende esta noticia o si necesita informacion en Espanol favor de llamar al Sr. Alan Nino al (626) 300-4780.

Supervisory District	Proposed Or Continued Use	Area	Intersection
1	Proposed	La Puente	Amar Rd. at California Ave.
1	Proposed	East Los Angeles	1st St. at Eastern Ave.
1	Proposed	Whittier	Carmenita Rd. at Leffingwell Rd.
2	Prop. Digital	El Segundo	La Cienega Blvd. at 120th St.
4	Proposed	East Whittier	Telegraph Rd. at Colima Rd.
5	Proposed	Glendora	Hollenbeck Ave. at Cypress St.